

Full Council

9 January 2024



Report of: Audit Committee

Title: Constitution for Committee Model

Ward: All

Recommendations:

That Full Council adopts the Constitution for the Committee Model of governance which will come into effect on 6 May 2024.

The significant issues in the report are:

This report recommends the Council's Constitution for the Committee model of governance and includes feedback on the proposed Constitution from the Audit Committee.

The covering report to the Audit Committee and the detail of the Constitution is set out in the appendices to this report.



1. Summary

This report sets out the detail of the proposed Constitution for the Committee Model of governance which comes into effect on 6 May 2024.

The proposals in this report were considered by the Audit Committee on 18 December 2023 and the covering report to the Audit Committee is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Appendix 2 contains the proposed Constitution and Appendix 3 contains the proposed Constitution with the changes from the current Constitution highlighted.

2. Comments from the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee considered the Constitution for the Committee Model of governance at its meeting on 18 December 2023. The Audit Committee supported the proposed Constitution and recommended the following additional clarifications/changes:

Part of Constitution	Comments from Audit Committee
Article 1.02	In the Articles of the Constitution delete point (6) and update point (5) as follows: to keep the implementation of decisions and the operational effectiveness of service areas under review.
Part 3.2	In the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee, the Leader, Deputy Leader, Chairs and Vice-chairs of Policy Committees should not sit on the Audit Committee.
Part 3.5	In the Terms of Reference for Area Committees, where a petition has 200 signatures or more it will trigger a petition debate at the Area Committee.
Part 4.1	In the Council Procedure Rules, the requirement to stand to address Full Council shall be updated to comply with equalities legislation.
General comment	Delete obsolete references throughout the Constitution which relate to executive functions.
General comment	Abbreviations to be reviewed and corrected where required to ensure consistency throughout the Constitution.
General comment	Cross-referencing to be reviewed and corrected where required to ensure consistency throughout the Constitution.

It is recommended that the proposed Constitution is updated to incorporate these proposed changes.

3. Recommendation

That Full Council approves the Constitution for the Committee Model of governance and that it will come into force on 6 May 2024.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Covering Report to the Audit Committee meeting on 18 January 2023

Appendix 2 – Draft Constitution (clean version)

Appendix 3 – Draft Constitution (including tracked changes)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None